GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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A BABY GORILLA OF FRENCH CAMEROUN

This young ape proved to be as delicate and helpless as a human baby, and had to be fed on warm milk until nearly a year old. The gorilla, next to man, has the longest period of helpless infancy. No gorilla has ever lived more than five years in captivity (See Bulletin No. 3).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Iraq, First Graduate of League's School for Statehood

THE "oldest country in the world" has become the newest member of the League of Nations. Iraq, the land of Babylon, Nineveh and Baghdad, and of the traditional Garden of Eden, has received its diploma after thirteen years as a mandate under British protection. Henceforth Iraq will be an independent, self-governing kingdom.

The former Turkish Province is the first graduate of the League of Nations' school for statehood, setting an example for Syria, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, and other lands once politically dependent, but which have developed rapidly since the World War.

The Land of the Magic Carpet

Iraq is a modern name for a region known historically as Mesopotamia, and which is believed by some to be the Biblical "Garden of Eden." Many authorities hold that somewhere in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is to be found the cradle of civilization. To-day it might well be called once more the Land of the Magic Carpet, for aviation plays a larger part in its life than in that of most lands.

The name Iraq means "department" and it was so distant a department of Turkey that the Turks never exerted complete control. Now young Iraqis, many of them trained in the American University in Beyrouth, Syria, are taking over a nation that has become an international highway. Modern steamships and the Suez Canal, which robbed the Near East of its importance as a bridge-land, are beginning to feel the competition of rail, highway and airplane routes through Iraq to the Far East.

It was the German dream of a land route to the East that thrust Mesopotamia into the public eye just before the World War. Allied victory interrupted the completion of a "Berlin-to-Baghdad Railroad" and there is still a section between Nisibin and Kirkuk which the train traveler must cover by motor car. But the motor highway across the Syrian Desert to Damascus has become a busy lane of traffic, and that vast landing field which stretches from the Dead Sea to the Persian Gulf has become a regular route for the Dutch air line from Holland to Java, the French air-hop from Marseille to Saigon, and the British route from London to Delhi.

A Kingdom under a Constitution

The world's newest nation begins life as a parliamentary kingdom. King Faisal governs under a constitution, and laws will be enacted by a senate of twenty appointed senators, and a lower house of eighty-eight elected delegates. Racial minorities are protected, individual freedom guaranteed, and tariff rights are recognized by treaty.

The "department" now known as Iraq was formerly made up of three Turkish vilayets, or provinces, named after their three chief cities: Mosul, a region of racial mixtures and rich oil fields, near the Kurdistan hills; Baghdad, historic capital straddling the middle Tigris; and Basra, the nation's seaport near the mouth of the Shatt-al-Arab, made up of the combined Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Three languages are used in the schools of the new nation. Arabic, the speech of all Arab lands, is the chief language, but Kurdish is taught in the north where Kurds predominate. Small Turkoman groups also in the north cling to Turkish, once the official language of all Iraq.

Baghdad a City Where Centuries Meet

The strangest tale in the Arabian Nights is that of the "Magic Carpet of Tangu." But stranger than any story of Sheherezade is the contrast between old and new in Baghdad, Iraq's capital, to-day. In this city where country carts and pack animals are forbidden the use of New Street, a motorist collides with an electric clock. Gufas, circular boats shaped like pumpkin shells, bring loads to modern river wharves. Oil pipe lines stretch across the desert toward Palestine and Syria. In defiance of Moslem custom King Faisal has his picture printed on the crisp bank notes of a new currency. Tribesmen who once slashed each other's throats at sight now ride peaceably in crowded motor buses, through the streets of the city of the Caliphs. Boy Scouts rub elbows with ragged urchins bawling for "baksheesh."

The airplane landing field at Baghdad is called "the Croydon of the East," and when a 42-passenger Hannibal plane settles softly to earth with a uniformed Briton at the stick, the fact is more amazing to the modern man than to the nomad who takes what comes with striking faith and an utter lack of comprehension.

City Arabs in Iraq have taken readily to the ways of civilization. Promising citizens of

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© Photograph by Robert F. Fitch

WOVEN BAMBOO CABLES SUPPORT THIS GRACEFUL BRIDGE IN NORTHERN SZECHWAN

As no vehicle other than the wheelbarrow has penetrated this remote Chinese province this oriental "Bridge of San Luis Rey" is not called upon to bear heavy burdens. The top cables are eight inches thick and the floor of the bridge consists of planks tied to the bottom cables (See Bulletin No. 5).

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Cocos Island Again Mocks Treasure Hunters

WANT to try your luck at treasure hunting? Another expedition has just completed six months on Cocos Island, lonely speck of land in the Pacific 500 miles southwest of the Panama Canal, searching for pirate treasure without success. Legend says that more than $60,000,000 in bullion and jewels are hidden somewhere in the thick jungle or along the beaches of Cocos, but so far treasure hunters have succeeded only in spending pleasant vacations in a delightful climate on one of the most beautiful islands of the broad Pacific.

Cocos Island, which is 16 miles of lofty, forest-covered mountains and furrowed valleys, owes its fame to the activities of pirates along the coasts of Central and South America from the seventeenth to the early part of the last century.

Cocos Once Was a "Pirate's Rest"

After Captain Edward Davis looted Leon, Nicaragua, in 1685, he sailed for Cocos, buried his treasure and rested until his next plundering expedition. In the early eighties, Benito, a former Portuguese naval officer, who was a scourge to shipping in the Caribbean, felt that his old bailiwick was becoming too well policed for his profession. He rounded the Horn, preyed upon towns and shipping along the Pacific coast and sought refuge on Cocos. He also buried treasure on the island before he and his crew were captured.

Loots of other pirates have been reported buried on Cocos, but the famous loot of Lima, perhaps, is the chief magnet of modern expeditions to the island. Gold and silver and precious stones worth millions, that were accumulated by the Spaniards from the natives and from richly adorned Inca temples, were hoarded in Lima when a revolution broke out.

The Lima mint was filled with gold and silver and the Lima Cathedral was a vault of wealth. The Cathedral chalices were solid gold, studded with priceless gems. Golden altars and altar equipment glistened in the dim light of the edifice. Diamond-studded vestments beamed with a new radiance with every movement of the priests who wore them. There were chasubles of gold adorned with rows of diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires.

Mutiny on the *Mary Dear*

Fearing seizure of these treasures by the revolutionists, Lima city fathers sought a ship as a hiding place. The *Mary Dear* was riding at anchor in the harbor of Callao. Under cover of darkness the treasures were transferred to the *Mary Dear's* hold and a guard stationed aboard.

Probably unknown to the Spaniards, the *Mary Dear* was commanded by one of Benito's pirates. The glint of gold and the shimmer of jewels crazed the captain. The guards were massacred and thrown overboard, and the *Mary Dear* made for the open sea. The crew of the ship was arrested later, but not until the cargo of riches had been buried, presumably on Cocos.

In the last century more than a score of expeditions have visited Cocos. One was headed by the famous British racer, Sir Malcolm Campbell. Another was led by the widow of a friend of the *Mary Dear's* captain, while a third was led by two wealthy women. A British naval officer anchored at Cocos and ordered his crew to find the treasure, but all he gained was a severe reprimand from the British Admiralty when he reached England.

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the new kingdom, they seem glad for the chance to work in ice and cotton cloth factories, and upon engineering and public works.

Much agricultural land has been reclaimed, the date palm, of which more than sixty varieties are known, being the chief product. Wheat, barley, and rice are also grown, and experiments with cotton are being made under King Faisal's personal leadership. King Faisal's favorite residence is on an experimental farm rather than in a palace. Flowers, pumpkins, and vegetables are planted in the date orchards where the palms protect tender leaves below from the scorching summer sun. These green spots are still chiefly confined to the region of the river banks. The rest of the lower river valley is swamp or treeless plain.

Note: Students in both geography and ancient history classes will find the following supplementary references helpful: "New Light on Ancient Ur," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1930; "A Visit to Three Arab Kingdoms," May, 1923; "Modern Scenes in the Cradle of Civilization," April, 1922; and "Pushing Back History's Horizon," February, 1916. See also: "The Citroën-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition Reaches Kashmir," October, 1931; "Flying the World," June, 1932; "Seeing the World from the Air," March, 1928; and "From England to India by Automobile," August, 1925.

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STUDENTS OF ANCIENT HISTORY WILL RECOGNIZE MANY IRAQ NAMES

Iraq, the newest nation, is strewn with the ruins of several of the earliest cities of recorded history. Here stood Babylon and Nineveh, and Ur, the ancient city of Abraham, and scores of others. The town of Hit (left center) is believed to occupy the site of the "Garden of Eden." Genesis mentions Erech as one of the cities of Nimrod, "mighty hunter before the Lord." The boundaries of the new Kingdom of Iraq have not yet been definitely defined, although they follow approximately those shown on the map. (The words "British Mandate" under "Iraq" should now be disregarded.)

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The Gorilla, a Good-Natured Jungle Dweller

PERHAPS no beast is so greatly misunderstood as the gorilla. Fiction writers and "thriller" movies make the gorilla appear to be the terror of the jungle. But cold facts reveal that the big ape is not only a rather good-natured beast, but somewhat of a weakling as well.

No gorilla has ever lived more than five years in captivity, and now the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C., has announced, following the death of Okero, two-year-old mountain gorilla, that it will have no more of the animals—at least for the present. Dr. William M. Mann, Zoo director, says that it is hopeless to try to keep these sensitive, almost human apes under present conditions.

Evil Reputation Traced to African Natives

The gorilla's evil reputation as a savage beast which lurks in the jungles, ready to attack and carry off human prey, may be traced to tales of natives brought back before explorers could make a careful study of the anthropoids. One stock story is that the big apes hide in the thick-foliaged branches of trees above jungle trails and seize passersby. Other terrifying tales deal with ferocious, unprovoked charges of the animal. Writers and artists have exaggerated these yarns until the gorilla's name is a synonym for a savage, blood-thirsty monster.

However, explorers and students of African wild life have exploded many of the tales, and have revealed the beast as an indolent jungle dweller, good-humored usually, and a fighter only on rare occasions.

Gorillas generally move in bands. When man approaches them they move on. The mother gorillas lead the retreat with their young riding pick-a-back, while the huge males remain between the family and the pursuers.

One famous African explorer who spent many months on the African gorilla trails, avers that gorillas charge men only when forced to protect themselves or their families; when aroused from deep sleep by the sudden appearance of a man; and when the family has retreated until it is fatigued. In the latter case the male gorillas give the pursuers ample warning of their impatience by assuming a sullen attitude.

Two Regions Where Gorilla Is Found

There are two gorilla lands. The coast gorilla ranges the forests along the coasts of southeast Nigeria, Camerouns, French Equatorial Africa and Rio Muni. The mountain gorillas range a smaller area on the slopes of the mountains in the neighborhood of Lake Kivu, eastern Belgian Congo. Hunters have diminished the gorilla bands until there now are only about 3,000 of the anthropoids in Africa, but through the efforts of Carl Akeley and other famous African explorers, the Albert National Park was established and the big apes are no longer facing extinction.

The "ferocious" gorillas are largely vegetarians. Their choicest foods are bamboo shoots and wild celery, which, with vines and small twigs also are the building material of their nests on the ground or in the trees.

When bamboo shoots are not available, the anthropoids strip the tough shell from sturdy bamboo stalks and devour the tender inner portions. Bamboo, wild celery, and other tropical plants and trees have been the gorillas' principal defense against man. They form a formidable wall through which the human eye can penetrate only a few feet. Progress in gorilla land often can be made only by way of tunnels which the anthropoids have opened.

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Coconuts (from which the island gets its name) and bananas grow wild. Wild pigs scamper through the forests, myriad birds swarm its trees, fish abound in surrounding waters, coffee, sugar and vegetables can be grown in its fertile spots, fresh water is plentiful and tropical heat is tempered by sea breezes and frequent rains. Yet Cocos has never been successfully colonized. However, some of the arid Galapagos Islands, its neighbors 380 miles to the southwest, are permanently inhabited.

For a short time Costa Rica maintained a penal colony on Cocos Island, and, in addition to pirates, it was visited from time to time by whalers. One treasure hunter remained on Cocos for several years in an unsuccessful attempt to colonize it.

This Cocos Island should not be confused with an island of the same name in the Indian Ocean.

Note: See also "A Modern Saga of the Seas," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1931.

Bulletin No. 2, October 31, 1932.

© *Photograph by Erling Tambs*

A FAMILY ON A WORLD CRUISE VISITS COCOS ISLAND

This real treasure island has plenty of good water, coconuts (for which it was named) and wild pigs. Recent treasure hunters have left chickens and a pair of deer. Food fish abounds in the surrounding waters. Seekers of pirate loot may enjoy themselves, even if they are no more successful in their quest for treasure than those before them who have turned over scores of acres of Cocos Island soil.

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Italy Reclaims Historic, but Malarial, Pontine Marches

THE Pontine Marshes, renowned through history as a breeder of malaria, are being reclaimed in one of Italy's major engineering projects. Vast areas of fertile land only 30 miles from densely-populated Rome will be thrown open to colonization as soon as roads and rural centers can be built in the newly-drained sections. Sale of the land on easy terms makes the project pay for itself.

While the Pontine Marshes lie within "commuting" distance of the capital of Italy, and are crossed by the Appian Way, one of the world's most famous roads, the region has remained one of the strangest and least-known corners of Italy.

On a Highway 2,200 Years Old!

The Via Appia, (Appian Way) built by Appius Claudius about 300 years B. C., starts from Porta San Sebastiano, the southern gate of Rome, and leads toward Naples. For the first 65 miles it runs as straight as a taut string, until it reaches the town of Terracina, where it passes under the cliff of Monte Sant' Angelo that overhangs the sea.

When you leave the Eternal City on this classic road, you pass at first along a wonderful array of old Roman sepulchral monuments; then you climb up the Alban Hills, extinct volcanoes of prehistoric times, and from there you gradually descend upon a great plain, some 30 miles from Rome, known to history as the Pontine Marshes.

On the left, as you travel toward Terracina, are the olive-covered Lepine Mountains, of gray limestone, that at sunset are veiled by that beautiful purple haze one sees so often reproduced on the background of the early Renaissance paintings. To the right is the Tyrrhenian Sea, along the border of which runs a large sand dune covered by an oak forest some 30 miles in length. Between the dune and the sea is a series of lagoons.

A Solitary Mountain Once an Island

At the extreme end a solitary mountain rises, to all appearances from the sea. It is Mount Circeo, the cornerstone of the Pontine Marshes. This mount was an island in bygone ages, as geologists have proved, and Homer, eight centuries before Christ, speaks of it in the "Odyssey" as an island, though probably it was not so any longer.

The large quadrangle formed by the foothills of the Alban volcanoes, by the Lepine Mountains, by the wooded sand dunes of the coast, and by Mount Circeo, measuring some 150,000 acres of extraordinarily fertile land, embraces the entire area of the Pontine Marshes. The water, hemmed in on all sides, could not flow out.

In winter the mountain streams poured their foaming, muddy torrents upon this lowland, flooding thousands of acres; the rich mud slowly settled, coating the fields with a silt which is the finest of fertilizers; then the waters gradually ran out through narrow channels until, in summer, only the lowest portion of the land, that which lies practically at sea-level, remained in a swampy condition.

A dense, luxuriant growth of water plants sprang up with the approach of the warmer seasons; the stagnant, lukewarm waters teemed with life of every description, and toward the month of July the treacherous Anopheles mosquito dropped its filmy larval veil, rose out of the marshes, and, flying around in search of a living for itself, sowed death upon humanity.

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In the formidable jungle growth one often comes suddenly upon a band of the huge apes. When surprised, the big males may stand erect, beat their chests and display a hideous open mouth while emitting shrill cries. The erect posture and shriek, according to some authorities, is not a display of ferociousness but a warning to all gorilla land that unwelcome strangers are in their domain. Nevertheless the startled animal is a terrifying sight.

Standing erect, the huge males attain a height of more than five and one-half feet and often weigh more than four hundred pounds. The females are smaller. Gorillas seldom stand erect, however; they usually stand or move on all fours.

Note: The gorilla country of Africa is described in: "The French Mandate of Cameroun," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1931; "Through the Deserts and Jungles of Africa by Motor," June, 1926; and "Cairo to Cape Town Overland," February, 1925. See also: "Flights from Arctic to Equator," April, 1932.

Bulletin No. 3, October 31, 1932.

BACK COPIES OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Many teachers, particularly those in rural districts where no library facilities are available, have written to the School Service Department of the National Geographic Society asking how and where they may obtain back copies of the *National Geographic Magazine* for use in the schools. Some of these copies are desired to be cut up for special purposes and others for permanent reference. Photographs, articles and maps make each issue of *The Geographic* useful in classroom work.

The Society again has collected, with the help of its membership, a limited number of copies of special value to schools. These will be sent to schools upon requisition of the teacher or principal. In allotting these sets to schools preference will be given rural areas or smaller towns, where library facilities are limited.

The recipient need pay only the cost of handling and carriage, which amounts to 50 cents for each packet of ten copies of *The Geographic*.

Because these packages must be assembled from a wide assortment of earlier copies, it will not be possible to specify which issues the packets contain. Each of the ten copies will be a different issue. Thus each packet is a panorama of world geography, including also nature subjects, exploration narratives, and popular science—in other words, a geography library of some 35 authoritative articles with more than 1,200 illustrations, many in color.

You will recognize the value of this gift, arranged as a phase of the educational work of The Society, when it is considered that all back copies available at The Society's headquarters for membership demands are priced at 50 cents each; 75 cents if earlier than 1912. Many out-of-print issues command much higher sums from rare-book dealers.

To minimize bookkeeping, remittance of 50 cents for each packet must accompany the order and teachers must indicate plainly their school and teaching position because these copies *are made available only for schools.*

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Chungking, Chinese Riverport Which Made Suburbs from Graveyards

CHINA this month (October 10) passed its 21st birthday as a Republic. Although it has reached "voting age" there was little celebrating. A nation with four uprisings in progress at one time, a Manchurian crisis, and other ills hardly feels like wasting gunpowder on fireworks.

From Shantung, Fukien, Hupeh and Szechwan provinces come reports of rebellious forces on the march, raiding villages, stealing cattle and crops, and disregarding the orders of the Central Goverment.

Szechwan's Revolt the Most Serious

Most serious of these uprisings to date is that in the middle-western province of Szechwan, which, with an area slightly less than that of Texas, has more than one-third as many people as the entire United States. Local war lords have taken control of Chungking, the commercial center of the province, and have launched a military campaign involving 250,000 armed men.

Chungking came into world news a few years ago when local authorities ordered the digging up of graves to make room for suburbs, an almost unheard of procedure in China where ancestral resting places are considered highly sacred. This busy river port lies about 1,500 miles upstream from the mouth of the Yangtze River. It is the largest city and port of entry for one of China's richest provinces.

The far-reaching trade of railroadless Szechwan Province is conducted almost entirely by river craft from Chungking, whose population of more than half a million is jammed into a small triangle formed by the junction of the Kialing River with the Yangtze.

Before the city fathers developed its modern suburbs, the fields back of Chungking were entirely filled with graves of countless generations. This resulted in hopelessly inclosing the great port of Chungking upon a rock promontory.

Through the centuries the city increased in population, but without expansion of territory, until overcrowding and filth had almost passed belief. The city being built on a rock, there was no possibility of proper drainage, so that Chungking ranked high in smells, even among Chinese communities. To remedy this situation Young China made suburbs out of the graveyards at the back of the town.

Chungking's principal streets rise steeply from the river and mount into the city in narrow turnings. The way for the foot passenger is made doubly hard as the carriers of river water spill their wares and keep the surface in a state of perpetual slipperiness. Mules, sedan chairs, and pack coolies crowd the twisting lanes, and beggars everywhere display their infirmities for the sake of alms. Added to these discomforts, crowded housing and overpowering odors do not tend to make the city attractive to foreigners.

Products of a Vast Empire

However, enormous wealth is hidden away behind Chungking's rather dismal exterior. The products of an empire have passed through her gates for centuries, rare and valuable goods destined for the markets of the world. These include some of the most sought-after commodities of modern commerce, so valuable as to be worth transporting 1,500 miles to the mouth of the Yangtze and thence half round the earth.

Among Chungking's exports are musk from the glands of Tibetan antelopes, widely used in perfume making, and tung oil, pressed from the seeds of the fruit

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By stinging a malaria-infected person the mosquito infects itself, and then, stinging some healthy individual, it communicates to him the disease. Malaria is not deadly in itself, but its repeated attacks so weaken the human organism that frequently fatal illnesses take hold of the fever-stricken body.

Floods in Winter; Malaria in Summer

The inundations in winter and the malaria in summer drove the population out of the plain; but the unparalleled fertility of the soil enticed some people back to defy the disease. The lowlands of the Agro Pontino are deserted; there are no cities or villages, but some lonely hamlets and, scattered here and there, farm buildings, in which only a few persons live in summer.

Many centuries ago most of the inhabitants fled to the mountains, built their towns on some steep hills, and from these vantage points made dashes into the plain to work the fields and tend the cattle. Soon these people will be able to take up permanent homes in reclaimed areas of the former marshes.

Note: See also: "The Story and Legends of the Pontine Marshes," *National Geographic Magazine*. For other material about Italy see: "The Perennial Geographer," October, 1930; "Stone Beehive Homes of the Italian Heel," February, 1930; "Venice, Home City of Marco Polo," November, 1928; "Genoa, Where Columbus Learned To Love the Sea," September, 1928; "Holidays among the Hill Towns of Umbria and Tuscany," April, 1928.

The Pictorial Geography, published by the National Geographic Society, contains a complete series of photographs, with legends, showing Italian scenes, industries and costumes.

Bulletin No. 4, October 31, 1932.

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ONE OF THE EARLIER CANALS USED TO DRAIN THE PONTINE MARSHES

Pope Pius VI ordered this channel dug in the late 18th century, but it did not solve the problem of carrying off the heavy winter rains. However, some land was reclaimed, houses were built along its banks, and Italian women found its waters a handy substitute for a laundry tub on wash days.

of a tree, valuable in the manufacture of varnish. Chungking's hog bristles are famous among brush manufacturers the world over and she exports an insect wax used in the preparation of medicines.

The list of products is a long one—raw silk, rare brocades, rhubarb, opium and other drugs; jade, agate and semi-precious stones. There is one point in common, however, among most of these articles of trade. They are small in bulk and possess a high intrinsic value. A cargo thus made up may meet Yangtze rapids, river pirates, and revolutionary armies, but if it once reaches the sea coast its value is enormous.

There are, however, bulkier exports. Hides, leather, furs, hemp, iron, copper and salt are shipped in varying quantities. Nevertheless, most of Chungking's wealth is derived from small, rare articles which the world cannot do without.

Chungking has been a center of missionary endeavor among both Catholics and Protestants. Most of the great nations once maintained consulates in the city and there were usually small foreign gunboats in the harbor whose crews formed a welcome addition to the resident foreign population. These foreign representatives have recently been moved down the river to Hankow. A few international trading firms maintain their own offices at Chungking, but revolutionary disturbances have reduced the foreign population, which in normal times numbers about two hundred.

Note: For additional data and pictures of Szechwan see: "The Eden of the Flowery Republic," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1920. Recent articles describing China include: "Raft Life on the Hwang Ho," June, 1932; "Cosmopolitan Shanghai, Key Seaport of China," and "Macao, Land of Sweet Sadness," September, 1932; "How Half the World Works," April, 1932; "Konka Risumgongba," July, 1931; "Seeking the Mountain of Mystery," February, 1930; "The World's Greatest Overland Explorer" (Marco Polo), and "Life among the Lamas of Choni," November, 1928.

The November, 1932, issue of *The Geographic* will contain the final chapter of Dr. Maynard Owen Williams' log of the Trans-Asiatic Expedition, first to motor across Asia, from Beyrouth, Syria, to Peiping, China, and new photographs of China.

Bulletin No. 5, October 31, 1932.

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CHINESE SOLDIERS RESTING ON A STATION PLATFORM

The life of a soldier in China has been, in recent years, an active one. But the Chinese themselves are a peace-loving race, and like nothing better than to till their fields or to celebrate family events, such as marriages, or the birth of a son in the household.

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